

**Roesel's bush-cricket *Metrioptera roeselii* (Hagenbach)
(Orth.: Tettigoniidae) in Oxfordshire**

A male of the fully-winged form *diluta* Charpentier of Roesel's bush-cricket was taken by me near Watlington, Oxfordshire (grid reference SU 700940) on 8 August 1997.

Ragge (1965) *Grasshoppers, Crickets and Cockroaches of the British Isles*) does not mention Oxfordshire for this distinctive cricket and there are similarly no records for the county in the more recent works by Paul (1989) *Grasshoppers and Crickets of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire*) and Haes & Harding (1997, *Atlas of grasshoppers, crickets and allied insects in Britain and Ireland*).

Comparison of the distribution map in the latter work with that produced by Haes some eighteen years earlier (1979, *Provisional atlas of the insects of the British Isles. Part 6: Orthoptera*), shows clearly that in recent years this species has spread westwards. There are, however, only two Oxfordshire vice-county records held on the database at the Biological Records Centre at Monks Wood, from Shipdale (grid reference SU 77) in 1992 and from Henley-on-Thames (grid reference SU 78) in 1993.

The insect was first noticed because of its distinctive "song" and, in spite of the suggestion by Ragge (*op. cit.*) that it may be easily taken with a net, evaded capture for a full three quarters of an hour!

I am grateful to Dr Henry Arnold at the Biological Records Centre (Monks Wood) for information on existing Oxfordshire records of this species and to the Editor for helpful suggestions in the preparation of this note.

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**The Channel Islands Pug *Eupithecia ultimaria* (Boisd.)
(Lep.: Geometridae) new to the Isle of Wight**

Brian Warne organised members of the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society to beat tamarisk bushes in various localities on the Isle of Wight in a bid to find larvae of the Channel Isles Pug here, during the second half of July 1997. The operation was successful at Bembridge (over a dozen larvae found), Niton (one) and St Lawrence (one) and the first adults emerged from these on 9 August. Other pug larvae were also beaten from this foodplant and these proved, on emergence as adults, to be the Double-striped Pug *Gymnoscelis rufifasciata* (Haw.).

It would appear that *E. ultimaria* is present in the east of the island and has not spread to western localities; this compares to the spread on the mainland where it has been found at Southsea and Hayling Island but not further west (Langmaid, 1996, *Ent. Gaz.* **47**: 239 - 240).— S.A. KNILL-JONES, Roundstone, 2 School Green Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight.